



BABYLON VILLAGE MUSEUM



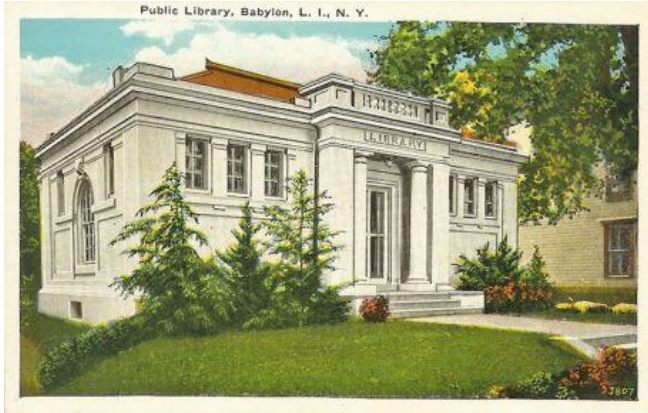
NATHANIEL CONKLIN HOUSE

BABYLON VILLAGE:
WHERE HISTORY IS MADE

Winter and Spring 2025

HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY

117 W. Main St. , Babylon NY 11702
631-669-1756 www.babylonvillagehistoricalsociety.org



Public Library, Babylon, L. I., N. Y.

Greetings Friends & Neighbors,

It's 2025 and the Historical Society is off to a busy start. But before we focus on the new year, let's take a moment to reflect on the past year. As we celebrated our 50th anniversary, 2024 saw an increased level of participation and interest in the Historical Society from the Babylon Village community and beyond. Our educational and entertainment programs drew large and enthusiastic crowds, we kicked off the Heroes Fountain at Hawley's Pond project in conjunction with the Village, and we topped it all off with a warm and welcoming traditional wassail bowl celebration following the annual tree lighting at Argyle Park.

We are very pleased to announce that annual and lifetime membership may now be obtained online. In addition, gift shop items may now be purchased by credit card. Please read the articles inside this newsletter for more information about these developments.

Springtime will bring a host of exciting, fun and informative exhibits and programs. We hope that you can join us for one or more. For those who are currently members, we thank you for your continued support and hope that you will renew your 2025 membership. For those who are not currently members, we urge you to consider becoming a member. Memberships and donations enable the Historical Society to continue to present programs and exhibits that enrich the lives of Village residents and guests. Stop by and visit us and please feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions. We'd love to hear from you.

Judy Skillen
President



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EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS



Santa and his helpers brought holiday cheer to the Babylon Village Annual Tree Lighting ceremony at Argyle Park on December 8th. Photo by the Babylon Herald Beacon

Wassail Bowl and Tree Lighting

Following the tree lighting, visit from Santa and s'mores, the afternoon holiday festivities continued at the Historical Society museum for the traditional wassail bowl celebration.

Right this Way: A History of the Audience



On Sunday, January 26th, Author Robert Vigas provided an informative and entertaining presentation about the most crucial part of any theatrical production - the audience!

The well-attended lecture highlighted the history of theatre from the most important seat in the house. Without the audience there is no show!

Thank you to our sponsors!

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Hollywood Boulevard Babylon Village style!



Babylon Village "A"lister were all smiles



And the winner is.....

It was a 1950 Oscar Party

Tiaras and jewels (both fine and faux) were on display when the beautiful people of Babylon Village turned out on a snowy Saturday night to attend the Historical Society's 1950 Oscar Party.

Guests walked the red carpet and were treated to a fine array of Oscar-worthy refreshments before settling in to be sent back in time to the 23rd Academy Awards ceremony hosted by none other than Fred Astaire. While our evening's event was helmed by resident film fan Marsha Collock, the magic of film transported viewers back to the night when some of Hollywood's greatest films were in competition. And while the winners of that night are firmly etched in history, the Oscar party participants were given a chance to make their choices heard.

Bette Davis and Spencer Tracy might not have not been awarded an Oscar for their work in "All About Eve" and "Father of the Bride," but in Babylon on Saturday night, February 8th, the public voted them the winners!

Are you a member?

We are pleased to announce that you may now renew or purchase your membership on line. If you'd like to skip snail mail and the cost of stamps, please visit us at babylonvillagehistoricalsociety.org and click on "memberships."

Have you visited our gift shop?



Purchases from our gift shop are no longer "cash only" and can be purchased via credit card. Come and visit and see what's new!

Volunteer Spotlight: Marie Bohrer



Marie poses alongside the Museum's photos of her son, Tom Bohrer. Tom was a champion rower and took home the silver medal at both the 1988 and 1992 Olympics. In 1988, Babylon Village honored their hometown champion with a parade while his proud mother looked on.

There's no one more "Babylon Village" than Marie. Marie Bohrer is a lifelong resident of Babylon Village. She grew up in the Village, attended Babylon schools, has lived in the same house in the Village for 64 years, and plays an active role in the Community. Marie has been a volunteer docent at the Historical Society museum for more than 18 years. Prior to that, she served as a Trustee on the Board of the Historical Society. Her three sons all attended Babylon schools and she is blessed with 9 grandchildren.

Marie finds the time volunteering at the Museum always interesting and rewarding. "You never know who is going to visit. There is always something new to see and learn." She is especially appreciative of the renovations that took place at the Museum during the last few years and the programs that are offered by the Historical Society.

In addition to the time she gives to the Historical Society, Marie gives back in many other ways and is especially active in her church. Her mission, she says, is "to spend her meaningful time giving back to Babylon." She does, however, manage to squeeze in some time at the Village pool, which she thinks is "just the greatest thing" in Babylon.

And if you see Marie around town on her bicycle, please get out of her way. She has a lot to do!

Interested in becoming a volunteer at the Historical Society? Please visit us on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. or call us at 631-669-1756.

Village of Babylon Historical and Preservation Society Board of Trustees:

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Conklin House News

The Nathaniel Conklin House had a very busy 2024 and is now gearing up for 2025.

On April 5, 2025, the "Dinner for Eight" will take place at the house. This raffle has been in place since 2015 and offers the winner a four-course meal for eight, served in the House, utilizing the historic rooms. The elegant evening includes appetizers to dessert along with all beverages. Tickets are available by contacting the Conklin House at conklinhouse@yahoo.com.

Next on the calendar is the **annual Afternoon Tea, which will take place on May 4, 2025.** Sumptuous sandwiches and sweets will be served in a Victorian-themed setting. Joseph Debello of Bestea and Hitch will speak about tea and all of its benefits. Tickets are \$35 per person. For more information, contact the Conklin House at conklinhouse@yahoo.com.

Haven't been here yet? Tours of the House are now available on the third Saturday of each month from 12 noon – 1 p.m. at no cost. You can book a tour on Eventbrite or call the House at 631-669-8164.





HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 484

Babylon, NY 11702

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Upcoming Events at the Historical Society - Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, February 23, 2025: 2:00 p.m. - Maritime Smuggling on Long Island - From Pirates to Rumrunners

Listen to a PowerPoint lecture by historian, author and former Newsday reporter Bill Bleyer to learn why pirates like Captain Kidd were attracted to Long Island at the turn of the 18th century and how a visit by Kidd to Gardiners Island led to him dying on the gallows in London. And learn why Long Island was so attractive to bootleggers during Prohibition that the Atlantic Ocean off the South Shore became known as Rum Row and was frequented by bootleggers like William "The Real McCoy" McCoy who supplied gangsters like Al Capone and Dutch Schultz. Free and open to all.

Friday, March 21, 2025: 10 - 11 a.m. - The Long Island Psychiatric Museum Tour * Reservations Required *

The Pilgrim Psychiatric Center hosts The Long Island Psychiatric Museum. It offers a collection of memorabilia, artifacts, and photos representing the history of the Pilgrim Psychiatric Center. \$5 per person upon arrival. **You must provide your own transportation.** Directions will be sent after registration. Reservations are required via email at babylonvillagehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com or by phone at 631-796-1016. Space is limited!

Sunday, April 27, 2025: 2:00 p.m. - My Betsey: The Remarkable Wife of Alexander Hamilton

Elizabeth Kahn Kaplan tells the story of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton. Elizabeth Schuyler and Alexander Hamilton came from widely different family backgrounds, yet their marriage was a great success. Included in this talk are their eight children, her reaction to his affair with Maria Reynolds, and his fatal duel with Aaron Burr in 1804. Elizabeth lived for 50 more years as a widow salvaging the reputation of her distinguished husband and working on behalf of orphans and public education in New York. Free and open to all.

Sunday, May 18, 2025: 2:00 p.m. - The Drafting of a Radical Idea - The Declaration of Independence

- When the "shot heard round the world" occurred in April of 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical. However, over the course of the next year as Britain attempted to crush the colonists' rebellion and the arguments of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" were read by many, the cry for independence would grow. Together, we will explore how this 18th century document would become a significant landmark in the history of democracy, exerting influence not only over the United States, but globally. Presented by Tara Rider. Free and open to all.

For any updated or further information, please check our Facebook page